SOCIAL News-Letter ACTION

Vol. XVI, 5 — Indianapolis, Indiana — May, 1952

Immigration Laws Are Your Business!

There are strong indications that Congress is going about a far-reaching revision of our immigration laws before recessing for the national political conventions. Three bills are now pending and some of the provisions warrant the most careful study by those who are concerned both for the protection of their own country and for decent and reasonable treatment of persons wishing to come to these shores.

Our basic immigration law was enacted by Congress on May 15, 1924. With a few amendments it stands today. Up to 1880 immigration to this country was relatively small, ranging from 8,385 in 1820 to 459,803 in 1873. Most of them came from England, Scotland, Ireland, Germany and Scandinavia, people who were easily assimilated into our American life. About 1880 both the number and the nationalities of our immigrants began to change, stimulated by political disturbances in Western Russia, unrest in the Balkans and overpopulation in Italy, aided and abetted by the alluring promises of labor recruiting agents of expanding American industries. From 1903 to 1914 the number of immigrants admitted averaged from 850,000 to well over a million annually. After World War I, which greatly reduced immigration, when the number of applicants began to crawl upward again (430,001 in 1920, 905,928 in 1921) there was public clamor for restriction of immigration lest we be overwhelmed by hordes seeking to escape from war-ravaged Europe. The answer was the Immigration Act of 1924.

The Act of 1924 did three things. First it set up procedures whereby our consuls in foreign countries were given responsibility for weeding out undesirable aliens before they sailed, thus eliminating the overcrowding that marked Ellis Island and the necessity of sending undesirables back home. Second, it set a quota for each country of 2 percent of its nationals in this country in 1890, thus giving the preference to those nations of Western Europe from whence we got our earlier immigrants. Third, a section excluding Orientals was written into law, despite the fact that no Asiatic countries would have received more than the minimum quota of 100 provided in the law. This action was taken in consequence of the unwise action of the Japanese ambassador, who warned Congress that his country, with which our relations were even then strained, would regard exclusion of Japanese citizens as an unfriendly act. This peevish action by Congress worsened our relations with Japan and contributed directly to the war that came seventeen years later.

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USA Shifts Policy

When the Administration chose to oppose the request of 12 Arab and Middle Eastern powers that the case of Tunisia, now in a state of turmoil under a French protectorate, be placed on the agenda of the Security of the United Nations, two momentous changes in her foreign policy were thus registered.

The first change is to reverse all previous declarations and action which have consistently stood for the discussion of all questions of international relations within the UN. It was, ironically, the United States which opposed making the veto in the Security Council applicable to placing items on the agenda. Now, by abstaining on the resolution to place the Tunisian question on the agenda, we actually veto it, since under the rules of the Council abstention is regarded as a veto.

Order Freedom And Democracy Sunday Supplies Now!

Churches observing Freedom and Democracy Sunday, July 6, should order supplies at once from the Department of Social Welfare, 222 S. Downey Ave., Indianapolis 7, Ind. These supplies are free. We are preparing stocks sufficient only to cover orders received. Available are Suggestions to Ministers, worship services for churches, Sunday school and youth groups, and a striking poster entitled "My Christian Citizenship Responsibility." Indicate the number of each you can use.

We have thus given notice to the world that we do not intend to support discussion in the UN of any issue which involves our own interests or those of our major allies, which in this case mean the European colonial powers, where it appears we might lose the case. What will become of our case, repeatedly stated in recent months in reply to Russia's request for conference on matters that divide the Soviet and western blocs, that the United Nations is the proper place for all such matters?

The other shift in policy is, if possible, even more crucial. For it demonstrates that the Administration has deliberately, if reluctantly, decided to support the colonial powers against the claims of their subject peoples. The repercussions of this action in Asia, Africa, and to a lesser degree in Latin America, have already been tremendous—and foreboding. "The United States might as well pack up its information service, point four program and military mutual security planning and get out of the Middle

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The U.S. And The Human Rights Covenant

Recent attacks on the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the proposed Covenant on Human Rights now in the process of drafting have brought replies from two important sources.

On April 14, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who served as chairman of the U.N. commission which drew up the Universal Declaration and is a member of the commission to draft the Covenant, took notice of these attacks, saying that failure to support these humanitarian treaties would make further American participation in the deliberations of the commission impossible and would show that we are "behaving exactly as the Russians did." On the following day Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, director of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, a joint commission of the World Council of Churches and the International Missionary Council, took the same theme in an address to the Denominational Staff Council, composed of the social education and action secretaries of the communions affiliated with the National Council of Churches.

Attacks on the Declaration and the Covenant, say informed persons, appear to arise from several sources. One is failure to distinguish between the Declaration on Human Rights and the Covenant. The Declaration, which is a statement of principles, was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations without a dissenting vote. It is not binding as law upon any of the UN member nations, though a California judge some months ago made a decision in a segregation case holding that since the U.S. is a member of the UN and our delegates voted for the Declaration it now takes its place as a part of our legal system. That this decision is contrary to the intent of the Declaration, is evidenced by the fact that the UN is now engaged in formulating a Covenant to be submitted to member nations for ratification. If the decision is appealed it will undoubtedly be reversed. A second fear expressed is that ratification of the Covenant would conflict with certain provisions of our constitution. This question will doubtless be threshed out fully if and when the Covenant comes before Congress for ratification. In the meantime it is safe to assume that our members on the Commission will see that the Covenant conforms to our constitution and if they fail, that the Congress will make such reservations as are required to protect our liberties.

Both of these objections appear to arise from sources which are opposed to any legislation on human rights, either on the national or international level.

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An Army Of Amazing Kindness

Such is the dream of Dr. Frank Laubach, world-famed missionary who has taught millions to read and write, who has now added to his other laurels the founding of the Koinonia Foundation to "fill the world's places of urgent need with the right people working the right way."

Koinonia Foundation occupies a 45-acre former estate at Pikesville, Maryland, near Baltimore. In addition to Dr. Laubach, its president, the board of trustees includes Dr. Glenn Clark, founder of the Camps Farthest Out; Starr Daily, author; Alfred D. Moore, executive secretary of the Committee on World Literacy and Christian Literature, together with a group of well known ministers and lay men and women. M. Glenn Harding, one of the original leaders of Camps Farthest Out, is executive director.

The Foundation sets itself to a four-fold task: (1) to help arouse the people of the United States to the world's critical need, (2) to find skilled volunteers in farming, engineering, teaching, nursing, home economics and medicine for a new army of goodwill, (3) to provide facilities for training such persons in attitude, understanding, and highest Christian practice, and (4) to aid in channelling qualified persons into specific projects overseas and at home. It does not propose to give technical training, except upon a very limited scale designed to aid the student in his work with people, assuming that those who come will already be technically qualified for specific tasks either through education or experience. Instead, it will concentrate on Christian motivation actively expressed in purposes and attitudes. "It is a tragic fact," says the Foundation, "that many Americans sent out to help in the underdeveloped lands are cancelling out their professional excellence by their attitudes of superiority, prejudice, disapproval, or distaste for strange customs." This defect Koinonia proposes to remedy by developing a spirit of Christian love and concern in those who undertake such service.

There are no set academic terms and no curriculum in the ordinary sense of the word. A student may come any time, pursue a continuous program of study and

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Washington Round-Up

Capitol Mood: Pre-convention campaigning overshadows all other business as the lawmakers wind up their affairs in preparation for the July nominating conventions of both parties. The dramatic withdrawal of President Truman and Governor Adlai Stevenson from the Democratic race leaves Senator Estes Kefauver in the front position as the Chicago gathering draws near. Senior legislators, however, are not warming up to the Tennessee Senator. They view him as a "freshman" who got a lucky break through television dramatization of his crime investigation. A Southern Senator who frequently voices the sentiment of the Dixie Congressional delegation says that both first term Senators Kefauver and Kerr "need more seasoning." The reluctance to support Kefauver may fade by convention time if he continues to demonstrate his ability as a vote getter. The party's alternative is an honest draft of Gov. Stevenson or President Truman. Failing in this, Democrats are left with lesser known candidates such as Senators Kerr, Russell, or Mutual Security Administrator Averill Harriman.

Republicans: The GOP convention picture is less complicated now with Senator Robert Taft and General Dwight Eisenhower destined for an all-out fight for the nomination. Very few political forecasters are going out on a limb to predict the outcome. Outside of Taft's loyal midwest following, however, the General seems to be favored. Despite his overwhelming triumph for re-election to the Senate in 1950, and a favorable showing in mid-west Presidential primaries in 1952, the Ohio Senator still is considered a poor vote getter. The General is expected to capitalize on this Taft weakness, although the Senator's supporters hope to offset this by demanding that Eisenhower express his views on various domestic issues. They feel that some of the General's support may be eliminated once he commits himself on domestic questions.

Liquor Lobby Wins: Temperance forces suffered a surprising defeat when Congress "pigeonholed" legislation (S. 2444) which would prohibit radio and television advertisements of distilled spirits for beverage purposes. In an off-the-record vote, the Senate Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee voted 7 to 6 not to report the bill for action by the Senate this session. This action surprised capital observers since the measure was introduced and supported by Committee Chairman Edwin C. Johnson (D. Colo). Ordinarily, legislation sponsored by the head of a committee receives preferred consideration. Newspapermen who followed the fate of the anti-liquor measure attribute its defeat to pressure from liquor lobbies, and the radio and television industry. The failure of the Committee to disclose how each member voted also was unusual, and is ascribed to the weakness of full-time temperance lobbies in the capital.

Cox Resolution: The Cox resolution t investigate activities of tax exempt organizations has been passed by the Hous Rep. Eugene Cox (D. Ga.), sponsor c the measure, said he wanted to determin the influence of certain "left-wing" group on foreign policy. Mentioned as objects o the probe are the Rockefeller and For Foundations. Church groups may come within the scope of the hunt for unortho dox activities in the area of foreign rela tions, although they were not specifically mentioned in the debate. Representatives o church groups, however, believe that both their ideas and their tax exempt statu may be questioned in hearings approved by the Cox resolution.

Point IV: Churches are playing an important role in expanding the government's Point IV program of economic development in the world's backward areas. They provided much of the initiative and leadership for a recent conference here on "International Economic and Social Development." Nearly 700 persons heard a message from President Truman and an address by Secretary of State Dean Acheson. The conference lasted three days and was devoted largely to panel discussions on ways to develop Point IV on the grass roots level.

World Missions: The President's Advisory Committee on Voluntary Foreign Aid reports that 110 voluntary agencies, largely religious, participated in some 2,500 technical assistance programs around the world from 1949 to 1951. Secretary of State Acheson, in a separate statement, announced that churches and other voluntary groups have contributed over $10 million in food, clothing, medical supplies and other goods to Korean relief since the outbreak of the war.

Vatican Envoy: The House Appropriations Committee has voted to forbid the State Department to spend any money to support an Ambassador to the Vatican. By a vote of 19 to 17, the Committee placed an additional barrier in the path of those seeking to re-establish diplomatic relations with the Vatican. The wording of the amendment does not specifically mention the Vatican, but prohibits use of State Department funds to maintain "any foreign service post or mission" without prior consent of the Senate.

Investigations: An estimated 230 separate investigations have been undertaken by various Congressional committees since January 3, 1951. The inquiries have ranged from "influence peddling" to contracts for professional baseball players. In a 15 month period, Senate and House Committees were authorized to spend $5 million dollars on the various probes.

R.A.F.

On Social Frontiers

rop to CWS. The National Council of rches announces that CROP (Christian al Overseas Program) will hereafter nder the sole sponsorship of the De- ment of Church World Service in- d of as in the past under the joint nsorship of Church World Service, Lu- an World Relief, and Catholic Rural e. The dissolution was by mutual agree- t and in complete goodwill. During the r years of its existence CROP has col- ed $11 million dollars worth of grains other foods and fibres and has shipped n to 30 hunger-stricken lands. Under its sponsorship CROP will continue to rate from its present headquarters, 308 st Washington St., Chicago 6. Ill.

* * *

How Precious is Liberty! Indiana is erally regarded as one of the nation's st politically-minded states, but figures ased by the Indiana State Chamber of mmerce seem to indicate that politics in iana is the concern of only a minority the citizens. The Chamber has recently ased an outline map of the state show- the percentage of registered voters in h of the 92 counties who took the trou- to go to the polls in the 1950 elections. r the state as a whole, 41.4 percent of qualified electors voted, while 58.6 per- t stayed away. In rural Putnam County .9 percent of the voters went to the polls, ile in Ohio County only 10.8 percent d so. In only 21 counties did as many as percent of the electors vote.

* * *

Religion in Action. For seven years ichard B. Fenley, president of a Louis- lle, Kentucky dairy concern, and How- d Haynes, business agent of the AFL airy Workers Local 783, were the lead- s in a controversy that has been marked bloodshed on both sides. Early this ar both attended a religious meeting in iami, Florida, neither knowing the other as present. During the meeting Fenley ent to Haynes and apologized for his rt in the conflict. Haynes accepted the ology and in turn ask forgiveness for s own conduct. Both men returned to ouisville and in a public meeting at the abor Temple confessed their wrongdoing d pledged themselves to work hence- rth on Christian principles of honesty, selfishness and love. The audience eered.

* * *

Sign of Things to Come. Drew Pearson ys that the Pentagon has received con- lential reports that Russia plans to cut anchuria off from China and set it up as separate Soviet state. This would de- ive China of her richest area, put a check Mao's growing power and thwart any nbitions he may have to challenge Rus- a's dominance in Asia.

U.S.A. Shifts . . .

(Cont'd. from Page 1, Col. 2)

East, Asia and Africa," according to Ernie Hill, foreign correspondent of the Chicago *Daily News,* writing from Cairo April 19. This, he says, is the consensus of opinion of "diplomats, political leaders and newspapers in this area."

"We are shocked at American reversal of a policy favoring freedom and independence for all peoples," Mr. Hill quotes the pro-Western minister of Egypt, Mortada Maraghy Bey, saying. He continues, "All of us must readjust our conception of what the United States once meant to us." Mr. Hill quotes *Al Ahram,* leading independent newspaper of Egypt, as saying, "Soviet communism wins millions of backers without spending a penny. . . . The United States is steering a dangerous course which can only sadden hundreds of millions of people who have looked to Washington as a friend of humanity."

It is some consolation to know that this new policy is not acceptable to many American diplomats in high places. Mr. Hill quotes one such anonymously as saying, that "the good effects from all of the hundreds of millions of dollars spent here since the end of the war have been nullified by the vote on Tunisia." This vote, one may add, not only was an abstention on the question of placing the discussion of Tunisia's case against her colonial "protector," France, but our delegation refused to support a compromise offered by Chile that would have placed the item on the agenda but would have postponed indefinitely the discussion of it.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, who has often represented the USA but is not a permanent delegate to the UN, openly stated that she was not personally in sympathy of the instruction given by the State Department on this issue. And according to Thomas J. Hamilton, UN correspondent for the New York *Times* (April 20), other members of the delegation made little effort to conceal their disagreement.

Mr. Hamilton, in the article just referred to, undertakes to state the case for the new policy. It rests on "the necessity for the United States to create the North Atlantic Alliance" against the Soviet menace, and that in this alliance the European colonial powers, including France, Britain and Belgium, must play an indispensable role. "And it hardly makes sense," says Mr. Hamilton, "to spend billions of dollars providing military and economic help for these partners with one hand, while helping to break up their colonial empires with the other." To be sure, he admits, this action has lost us friends in Africa and Asia. "But by the same token, it helped win us friends in most of the NATO countries, which, after all, are those on whom we are placing our principal reliance in our effort to save the free world from totalitarianism."

In response to this one might ask whether the billion and a half peoples, whose friendship we thus so flaunt, are not also equally important; and just what is meant, in this connection, by the "free world."

W.W.S.

We Appreciate

Words of appreciation always warm the heart. Especially is this true when an act of benevolence is performed or a gift is given through a large organization or a national agency. Such expressions of gratitude give assurance that "my gift" or "my concern" really has reached some individual.

Last summer the department of social welfare shipped a large wooden box (approx. 300 lbs.) of clothing to the Philippines. It went out as baggage with Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Keyes. A letter of thanks from Mrs. George Earle Owen reads:

"How wonderful it was to receive the huge box of relief supplies that you sent with Mr. and Mrs. Keyes! It was a great joy to unpack the box—every single item will be of such usefulness. Shoes for seminary students—baby clothes for new babies in the pastors' families—good used clothing. Many of the baby supplies and medical items have been put aside for the needs as they come along. . . . You will be interested to know that several of the skirts and blouses included were especially useful for the dormitory students who use uniforms on occasion—one group uses black skirt and white blouse, another gray skirt and white blouse—and since clothing is quite expensive these meant a lot to them."

During the winter months parcels have been shipped by International Parcel Post. A recent letter from Mrs. Norwood Tye relates "We are especially thrilled with the thought of receiving a record player. . . . I was in Manila when the shipment of three packages arrived, so Mrs. Owen and I spent some time sorting and dividing them. . . . I hope you will express our appreciation to the church women at home who support us so generously with these gifts."

The following letter from a German refugee family whom the department has sponsored and resettled in Colorado illustrates another form of gratitude.

"Inclosed find the other half of the transportation expense . . . glad to send the rest of our expense and so we paid it all in full! Thank you for every thing you done for us! We are still fine and happy and be glad we are here in Amerika." It took this family just four months to repay its inland transportation of $191.

"Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God . . . giving him thanks." (Luke 17:15-19)

R.E.M.

Immigration Laws . . .

(Cont'd. from Page 1, Col. 1)

The end of World War II confronted us with another problem.

At the cessation of hostilities there were several million Displaced Persons in western Europe behind the Allied lines, driven out of their homelands in eastern and southeastern Europe by advancing Communist armies or Communist partisan groups in their own lands. To send them back meant death before firing squads, concentration camps or the mines. Thus began the task of resettlement of Displaced Persons under the aegis of the International Refugee Organization, an agency of the United Nations. After a long and bitter fight the United States passed legislation admitting to this country a total of 339,000 of these people. On April 14, 1952, President Truman received the 339,000th D.P. at the White House and publicly lamented the expiration of the program. Less than a month before he had sent to Congress a proposal to admit another 300,000 refugees and other qualified persons from over-populated European countries. Such a proposal was bound to set off the fireworks.

Senator McCarran (D. Nev.), who has fought every piece of D.P. legislation from the beginning, and Rep. Walter (D. Pa.) introduced a bill (S. 2550) to curtail even our present limited immigration and to give our consuls in foreign lands unlimited authority to refuse visas, without any sort of review or appeal, even after our other government agencies have cleared the individuals concerned. Of this bill Dr. J. Henry Carpenter, executive secretary of the Brooklyn Federation of Churches says, "To the minds of many of us the (bill) is so unfair that it should never be enacted. Many organizations here in the city have come out directly against this bill."

At the other extreme is a bill (H.R. 7376) introduced in the House by Congressman Celler (D. N.Y.) that would not only admit the 300,000 additional persons suggested by President Truman, but would establish under emergency legislation the principle proposed by the President of admitting to the United States the surplus population of overpopulated European countries, and would appropriate funds for the reimbursement of voluntary organizations (including religious bodies) for moneys expended in bringing in such persons. It is reported that the Roman Catholic Church authorities, despite their distaste for Mr. Celler's "leftist" tendencies, will support this measure.

A third bill (S. 2323), sponsored by Senator Lehman (D. N.Y.) and Senator Humphrey (D. Minn.) was framed after consultation with more than 30 voluntary organizations concerned with the immigrant problem. This bill would maintain the present total number of immigrants admitted in a single year, continue the quota system, repeal the Oriental exclusion features of the 1924 Act, and would permit unused quotas in any year to be pooled for the benefit of qualified persons from countries where applications now exceed the quotas allotted. It also provides for continuing support for international emergency relief agencies working on the refugee problem and for appeals from arbitrary decisions of American consuls.

The General Board of the National Council of Churches, which has proceeded cautiously in the matter of public pronouncements, on March 21, 1952, issued a statement on "United States Immigration and Naturalization Policy" which, without naming any specific legislative proposal, gave approval to many of the principles embodied in the Lehman-Humphreys Bill.

The danger in the present situation is two-fold. One is that Senator McCarran, who has been second only to Senator McCarthy in stirring up hysteria in Washington over the infiltration of "subversives" in government and who would compel every American to sign a special loyalty oath, will so becloud the issue that members of Congress will hesitate to vote against his bill and we will be saddled for years to come with legislation as unwise as was the Oriental exclusion feature of the Act of 1924. On the other hand, the Celler bill establishes under the guise of emergency legislation the principle that the United States is committed to receive excess populations from other over-populated countries. While the number is only 300,000, the precedent is set. It also establishes the un-American principle of reimbursing voluntary agencies for their expenditures on behalf of immigrants. The answer would seem to be the Lehman-Humphrey bill which maintains present quotas, but permits the pooling and re-allocation of unused quotas for the benefit of qualified applicants from countries whose quotas are filled.

J.A.C.

An Army . . .

(Cont'd. from Page 2, Col. 1)

self-cultivation, and may find himself "graduated" because an urgent call comes from a job that he seems qualified to fill. Students ordinarily remain from three to nine months. The need, says Koinonia, is great. The American government wants 2,000 men in the first half of 1952. UNESCO is calling for 200, while private agencies and industries are recognizing that overseas personnel need something more than technical competence. This Koinonia proposes to give through deep religious motivation. The over-all charge, including board and room, is $90 monthly per person. There are scholarship and employment possibilities for qualified students. Special arrangements can be made for married students who desire to bring their families with them. Address, Koinonia Foundation, Pikesville Box 338, Baltimore 8, Maryland.

J.A.C.

U. S. and Human . . .

(Cont'd. from Page 1, Col. 3)

There are, however, some questions raised by persons who are basically favorable to ratification of the Covenant. The first of these is whether the international climate of ratifying nations, including our own, is favorable for carrying out the obligations to be undertaken. It is cited that any law needs to have large majority support to be enforceable. A second question arises from the fact that we do not yet know what the final form of the Covenant will be. This is a bridge which we can cross when we come to it, and since the Covenant is still in process of drafting we may assume that it will be in a form that will command the widest possible support. The third question deals with certain inferences which can reasonably be drawn from the wording of the Declaration. It is now felt that the article dealing with freedom of information has serious defects. The provisions for religious freedom appear to some to imply that the state gives religious freedom, though this is offset by the plain declaration in the preamble that human rights are inherent.

At the meeting of the Commission in Paris this year it was decided to revise the existing draft of the Covenant to provide one draft for individual and political rights and another for economic, social and cultural rights. Under this plan both drafts will be revised and presented to the General Assembly at the same time.

Supporters of human rights legislation would do well to keep abreast of developments in this field. Our State Department and our representatives on the Commission are caught between the pressure of opposition in the Senate, supported by the American Bar Association and other conservative groups, and the pressure being brought to bear upon them by representatives of other nations who feel the need of a Covenant for their own protection. Refusal of the United States to ratify human rights legislation would be only one more evidence to some that we are not sincerely concerned about anybody but ourselves. Perhaps Mrs. Roosevelt best expressed it when she said, "I am tired of being afraid."

J.A.C.

D. P. F. At Convention

10:00 p. m.

Tuesday—May 20, Hotel Sherman

Dr. Harold E. Fey will discuss the Korean and Far Eastern situation.

5:30 p. m.

Thursday—May 22, Lawson YMCA

Annual Dinner and Business Meeting.